

Application No : 09/780,979

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 29, 2005. Claims 1 and 3 to 34 are currently in the application, with Claims 1, 16, 21, 24 and 30 to 34 being the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 3 to 11, 14 to 19, 21, 22 and 24 to 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,618,630 (Jundt) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,941,966 (Gotze); Claims 12, 13, 20, 23 and 27 to 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Jundt in view of Gotze and further in view of the data sheet for NetSilicon's NET+12 processor (NetSilicon); and Claims 30 to 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Jundt in view of NetSilicon. Applicants have reviewed the applied references and respectfully submit that the claimed invention is patentably distinguishable over these references for at least the following reasons.

As described in Applicants' previous response, the present invention concerns a communication device or controller for facilitating communication using various communication standards. Among the distinguishable features of the claimed invention, the device or controller is implemented in an integrated circuit that includes memory for storing data and instructions. None of the applied references are understood to disclose or suggest these features of the invention.

Jundt is understood to concern a process controller that is coupled to field devices with which the process controller communicates. However, as conceded in the Office Action, Jundt is not understood to disclose or suggest that the process controller is implemented in an integrated circuit.

Gotze, which was applied in combination with Jundt, is understood to concern a device having a hierarchical processor structure for controlling one or more data buses. The Office Action contended that Gotze describes the control device as being integrated in a single integrated circuit. Applicants respectfully disagree with this interpretation of Gotze.

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In column 3, lines 21 to 44, Gotze describes a control device that includes sequencers 221 and 222 being connected to data buses 201 to 204. Gotze further describes the sequencers as using data from respective memories 223 and 224 and being connected to a microprocessor or micro-controller 230. While Gotze describes these individual components as being inter-connected, nothing in Gotze is understood to teach or even suggest that these components are implemented in an integrated circuit.

The Office Action further refers to the device depicted in Figure 4, and described in column 4 beginning at line 27, of Gotze. Again, nothing in Gotze is understood to teach or suggest that the components of the device are implemented in an integrated circuit. Gotze describes component 500 as being an "integrated component," however, component 500 is a PowerPC micro-controller (see column 5, lines 27 and 28) which one skilled in the art would recognize as an individual component and not part of a larger integrated circuit.

NetSilicon is a data sheet describing features of an integrated microprocessor for use in networked devices and Internet appliances. The processor is understood to include components such as various interfaces, controllers and ports. Nevertheless, the processor is not understood to include all of the features of the claimed invention. For example, NetSilicon is not understood to disclose or suggest that the processor includes an integrated memory for storing data and instructions.

NetSilicon describes the integrated processor as including a programmable memory controller that supports various types of memory. The Office Action appears to equate the memory controller with actual memory integrated with the processor. Applicants respectfully disagree with this interpretation and submit that NetSilicon is not understood to disclose or suggest that the integrated processor includes a memory. Rather, NetSilicon is understood to simply disclose a memory controller that supports various off-chip memory types.

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The Office Action further contends that the processor described in NetSilicon includes support for the Serial Peripheral Interface (SPI) communication standard. Again, Applicants respectfully disagree with this interpretation of NetSilicon. The processor in NetSilicon is described as including a 10-channel DMA controller, with four of the channels dedicated to serial transmit/receive operations. Applicants submit that supporting serial communications is not the same as supporting the SPI communication standard. The SPI communication standard is a specific standard that uses a particular protocol and does not simply refer to serial communications.

Therefore, none of the applied references are understood to disclose or suggest the claimed features of the present invention. In particular, none of the applied references are understood to disclose or suggest at least the features of a communication device or controller implemented in an integrated circuit that includes memory for storing data and instructions. Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 16, 21, 24 and 30 to 34 are believed to be patentably distinguishable over the applied references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejections of Claims 1, 16, 21, 24 and 30 to 34 are respectfully requested.

The other claims currently pending in the application are dependent from the independent claims discussed above, and therefore are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

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Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Orange County office by telephone at (949) 851-0633. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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